and not on the basis of any considerations of area, State, region or population.

Hiring of Oil Tankers from Private Companies

*238. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to hire oil tankers from the private sector shipping companies to replace the ageing fleet of oil tankers with the Shipping Corporation of India and also to issue licences for the acquisition of oil tankers to private companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the terms and conditions if any, laid down by Government in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the Shipping Corporation of India is likely to be benefited as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government do not propose to hire oil tankers from Private Sector Shipping Companies. However, a few private shipping companies have been issued licences for acquisition of crude oil tankers with the option to enter into suitable arrangements with the Shipping Corporation of India. The arrangement would be that the ship acquired by the company would be given to Shipping Corporation of India on charter-cum-demise basis and this can be treated as Shipping Corporation of India vessel for all intents and purposes. Such vessels can then be deployed with Oil Co-ordination Committee.

(c) Due to financial and some procedural constraints, Shipping Corporation of India has not been able to acquire oil tankers in time. The acquisition of vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method would enable the Shipping Corporation of India to augment its tanker fleet for this purpose.

Family Planning Congress and IPPF Meet

*239. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently held Family Planning Congress and IPPF Meet at New Delhi was co-sponsored by Population Council, USA;

(b) whether Government are aware that the same Council issues trade marks of the manufacture of Norplants (the controversial hormonal contraceptive); and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Population Council, USA, used this Meet to promote their own brand i.e. Norplant ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Population Council hold patent rights for NORPLANT.

(c) No, Sir.

लखनऊ-उन्नाव रेल लाइन का दोहरीकरण

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क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) लखनऊ-उन्नाव रेल लाइन के दोहरीकरण और मीटर गेज लाइन के बड़ी लाइन में रूपान्तरण का कार्य तथा कानपुर से अनवरगंज तक बड़ी लाइन के विस्तार तथा गंगा नदी पर रेलवे पुल के निर्माण से संबंधित कार्य किस चरण में है ; और

(ख) उक्त कार्य को कब तक पूरा किए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) :

(क) लखनऊ–उन्नाव खण्ड पर दोहरी लाइन बिछाने तथा गंगा पुल के सुदृढ़ीकरण का कार्य काफी प्रगति पर है, कानपुर सेंट्रल–कानपुर अनवरगंज खण्ड के